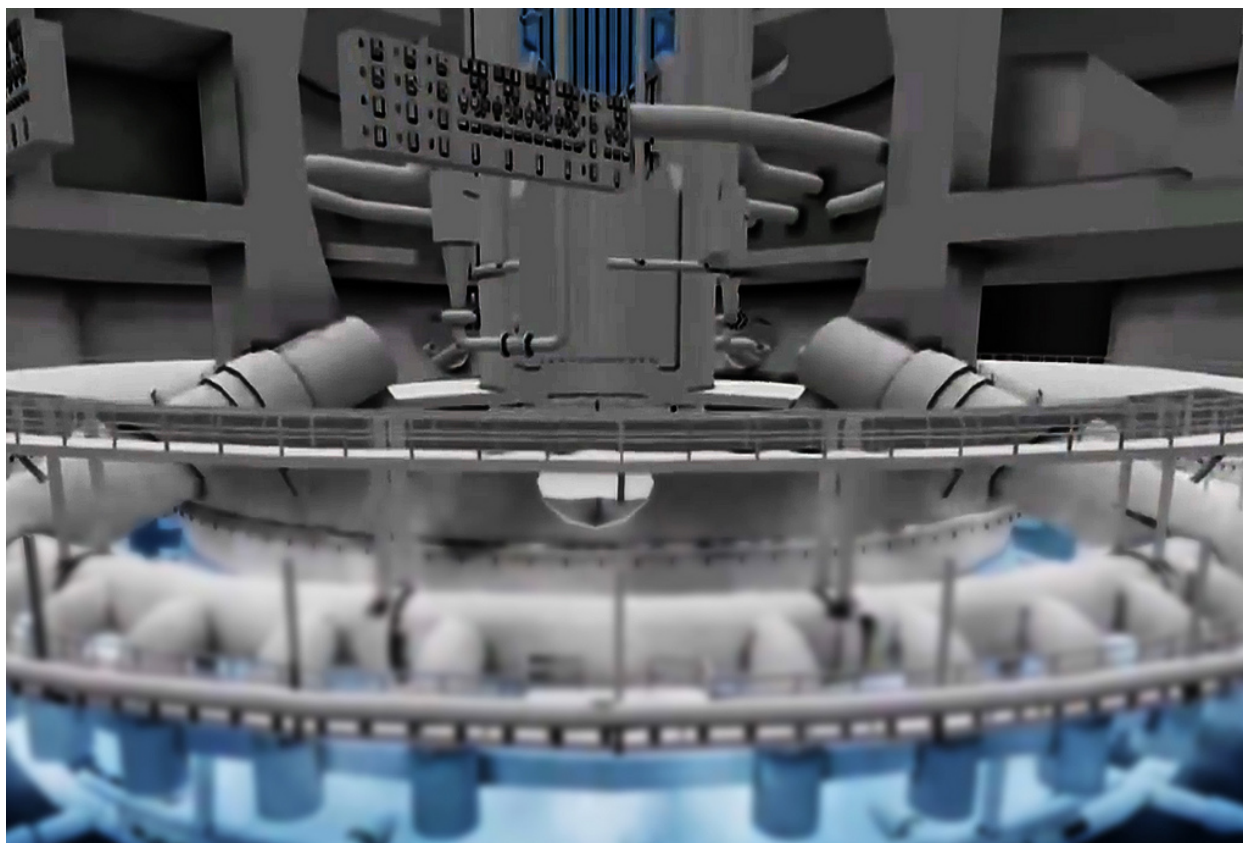


Probing Fukushima with cosmic rays should help speed cleanup of damaged plant

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Thanks to an agreement with Toshiba Corp. to license a novel technology refined at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos scientists will be heading to Japan to set up a remote sensor that will allow nuclear scientists to peer inside the damaged reactors at

the Fukushima Daiichi complex and get detailed pictures—without ever breaching the containment building.

1:42

Los Alamos, Toshiba probing Fukushima with cosmic rays

Muon tomography, a process that uses particles generated when cosmic rays interact with Earth's atmosphere to create pictures of dense objects, will show researchers high-resolution images of nearly all of the nuclear material inside the damaged reactor cores.

The detailed images could allow plant operators to more quickly develop and execute a cleanup strategy. Some estimate that muon tomography could help speed cleanup of the reactors by as much as a decade or more.

The technology can also potentially reduce cleanup costs and worker exposure to radioactive materials.

[**Read more »**](#)

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